

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, where claim 10 has been canceled and its features included in independent claim 1. Accordingly, no new issues requiring a new search have been introduced and entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested.

The Final Office Action indicates that claims 4 and 13-18 are allowed and that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that that claims 4 and 13-18 are allowed and that claim 10 contains patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 5-9 and 11-12 should also be allowed based at least on their dependence from independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Dicran Halajian  
Reg. 39,703  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
December 15, 2008

**THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP**  
Applied Technology Center  
111 West Main Street  
Phone: (631) 665-5139  
Fax: (631) 665-5101